

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

10 MAY 1985

Lebanon

Following his unanimous election as chairman of the Lebanese Forces Executive Committee, Elie Hubayqah presented the organization's policies, emphasizing their "new orientation," the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. Hubayqah underlined the Lebanese Forces' understanding of Lebanon's "Arab leaning" in which Syria plays a leading role, but warned that the Arab influence would no longer be tolerated as a means of "extortion, bargaining, or negotiations."

In Beirut, the Military Council was unable to meet because of the "tense situation," while in Sidon, intermittent clashes erupted along the 'Ayn al-Mir-Lib'a-Kfar Falus combat line, according to Beirut radio. The radio also cited a "noteworthy operation" in Hasbayya against the army of southern Lebanon (ASL) in which several ASL men were killed when a woman detonated explosives she was carrying. In a separate development, the Palestine Salvation Front concluded its visit to Lebanon after meeting Lebanese Leaders to discuss relations and conditions in Palestinian camps. They agreed to hold future meetings, Beirut radio disclosed.

Syria

The Soviet Union began turning over its SAM-5 batteries deployed in Syria to the Syrian Armed Forces, according to *THE JERUSALEM POST*. This action and the "exodus" in recent weeks by some 2,000 Soviet military advisors and experts has refocused attention on Syria's "future intentions."

Israel

The Jordanian-Palestinian delegation issue will be discussed with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, who arrived 10 May, Jerusalem radio stated. As for Tabah negotiations, *YEDI'OT AHARONOT* revealed that Israel will limit negotiations to 3 months, and then if needed will accept transferring the dispute to a U.S. arbitrator.

Sudan-Libya

Following the departure of the Libyan delegation headed by Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, SUNA carried a Libyan-Sudanese joint communique which stressed that the talks focused on strengthening bilateral relations and common Arab action. Transitional Military Council Deputy Chairman General Taj al-Din 'Abdallah Fadl and Prime Minister Al-Jazuli Daf'allah accepted the Libyan invitation to return the visit at a future date, the communique added.

Iran-Iraq

The Iranian Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique cited by IRNA announced that chemical weapons were fired against Iranian forces on 7 and 8 May.

FBIS**DAILY REPORT
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BAKHTAR Reviews Karmal Visit to Moscow

*LD100618 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT
10 May 85*

[Text] Kabul, May 9, BAKHTAR — The memorial medal of the great national war of 1941-45 was awarded to Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA CC and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA in Moscow in a gala celebration on Wednesday. Babrak Karmal expressed his gratitude in a speech delivered on the occasion.

President of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA attended a grand function on Wednesday convened in honour of the 40th anniversary of the great victory of the people of the USSR over fascism.

General secretary of the PDPA CC laid wreaths on the mausoleum of Lenin and the cenotaph in Moscow on Wednesday. Likewise, he visited the military academy of Frunze on May 8.

Addressing a grand meeting held in the academy on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the victory of the USSR over Hitlerite fascism, Babrak Karmal pointed, inter alia, to the struggle of the people of Afghanistan against the imperialist and reactionary forces headed by the USA. He said that Afghanistan is not alone in this struggle. It enjoys the support of the USSR, the socialist countries as well as all progressive forces of the world.

Soldiers' Deaths in Pakistan Refugee Camp Protested

*LD091536 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT
9 May 85*

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the Pakistan Embassy in Kabul was summoned to the DRA Ministry of Foreign Affairs at 1430 today. The following statement was read to him by the deputy minister of foreign affairs:

According to reliable reports, 12 Afghan soldiers and 12 Soviet soldiers were captured recently by Afghan counterrevolutionaries belonging to a group led by Rabbani. The group had infiltrated from Pakistan territory and held their prisoners in Badabera, near Peshawar, in a military camp under the direct control of the Pakistan Government. At the end of April the prisoners engaged in a heroic deed in order to free themselves. After disarming the camp guards they took control of a large store of weapons and ammunition belonging to the counterrevolutionaries. They then demanded that the Pakistan Government return them to the DRA or be handed over to the Afghan and Soviet Embassies in Islamabad.

Unfortunately, the Pakistan Government not only failed to consider the rightful demand of these soldiers, but soldiers of the Pakistan Army joined with the counterrevolutionaries in attacking the camp. Following an unequal fight and an hours-long exchange of fire, the heroic Afghan and Soviet soldiers did not surrender: after exploding the weapons and ammunition store they were all martyred. This incident shows that a number of Afghan soldiers and citizens are imprisoned in camps in Pakistani territory, contrary to all international laws and the norms of human rights, and are under spiritual and physical torture and

are facing inhuman conditions. This incident also proves that the Pakistan Army takes part in armed aggression against the DRA by Afghan counterrevolutionaries from Pakistani territory.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly protests to the Pakistan Government over this tragic incident that resulted in the martyrdom of the Afghan soldiers, and states that all consequences for such irresponsible deeds rest with the militarist Government of Pakistan. The DRA Ministry of Foreign Affairs also demands from the Pakistan Government that it severely punish those responsible for the incident and that it return all DRA soldiers and citizens imprisoned in Pakistan camps as soon as possible.

Ministry Official Details Agricultural Successes

LD100629 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 10 May 85

[Text] Kabul, May 9, BAKHTAR — The PDPA and the Government of the DRA have paid all-sided attention to the development of agriculture throughout the country. This was stated by a spokesman of the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reforms of the DRA to a BAKHTAR correspondent. He added that the level of agricultural products was considerably increased in the past two years. He cited as an example that an average of 110 million dollars was gained from the export of raisin and 261 million dollars from the sale of grapes during the last Afghan year ended on March 20, 1985.

The share of the agricultural production in the national income was 66.4 percent and income from the foreign exchanges coming from the sale of agricultural products abroad constituted 43 percent of all the revenues of the country. The value of Gross National Product in the last Afghan year was 88.1 billion afghanis which was higher by about 8 percent as compared with one year before that. Similarly, the irrigation work was considerably improved as a result of which 700 thousand hectares of land have improved.

The reconstruction and repair of dams, rivers and canals in the Provinces of Kabul, Balkh, Helmand and Nimroz were carried out in the same period. Considerable assistance has been rendered to the peasants and agricultural cooperatives. An amount of 140 thousand tons of sowing improved wheat seeds and cotton, 140 thousand tons chemical fertilizers, 19 thousand tons of improved wheat seeds and insecticides and pesticides at a value of 81 million afghanis were distributed to the peasants and agricultural cooperatives.

The agricultural mechanized services have expanded throughout the country, for example, five agricultural mechanized stations were established in the same period in five provinces and four mechanized units in four other provinces of the country. It is to be pointed out that over 600 peasants councils have been formed as legitimate representatives of the peasants who play a valuable role in the implementation of water and land reforms. Over 300 thousand [as received] peasant families have received about 700,000 hectares of land free of charge as a result of the democratic land and water reforms till the end of the last Afghan year.

Gandhi Meets With Australia's Hayden in New Delhi

*BK091256 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT
9 May 85*

[Text] The Australian foreign minister, Mr William George Hayden, called on the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in New Delhi this morning. The meeting lasted for about half an hour. Mr Gandhi expressed India's desire to strengthen bilateral relations with Australia. Mr Hayden delivered a letter from the Australian prime minister inviting Mr Gandhi to visit that country. The prime minister has accepted the invitation.

Gandhi Postpones Visit to 2 Northeastern States

*BK091551 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1544 GMT
9 May 85*

[Text] The prime minister has put off his visit to northeastern states. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was to leave tomorrow on a 3-day visit to Mizoram and Manipur.

President Again Postpones Trip to Africa

*BK101243 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT
10 May 85*

[Text] The state visit of the president, Giani Zail Singh, to Zimbabwe and Zambia has again been postponed. Briefing newsmen in New Delhi today, a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said the postponement is due to affairs of the state which make it necessary for the president to stay in the country.

Defense Minister on Neighbors' Military Buildup

*BK091035 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT
9 May 85*

[Text] The defense minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, has said India cannot ignore the military buildup by some of its neighboring countries. Addressing the first meeting of the newly constituted consultative committee of members of Parliament attached to his ministry in New Delhi today, he said there is a constant need for the country to build up adequate defense preparedness in keeping with its size and security requirements. In addition, the defense preparedness has to be geared up according to the changing security environment. He assured the members that all necessary steps are being taken to fulfill both the requirements.

Regarding air accidents, he said more care is being given to flight safety and maintenance aspects. Steps are being taken to reduce the growing bird menace for the aircraft if not eliminate it.

The defense minister announced that government has decided to have a special quota reservation of 7.5 percent for war widows while allocating cooking gas agencies.

PTI Correspondent Arrested in Sri Lanka

*BK091617 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
9 May 85*

[Text] India has taken up with Sri Lanka the question of the arrest of the PTI correspondent in Colombo. The Indian high commissioner, who was due to leave Colombo today on transfer, has been asked to delay his departure to deal with the matter. It is reported that the correspondent, Mr Krishan Anand, was arrested by the Sri Lanka police this morning under emergency regulation. Some policemen went to his residence and took him away to the interrogation headquarters.

PTI reports that Mr Anand was kept there for about 5 hours and was denied consular access and legal assistance. In the afternoon, he was allowed to speak to the Indian high commissioner on the telephone. He is reported to have told the high commissioner that he felt threatened and insecure. Later, he was produced before a court and remanded to judicial custody. He was taken to a prison in Colombo.

The arrest of the PTI correspondent was raised by some members in the Lok Sabha this afternoon. Earlier, members in both houses had expressed their concern over reports that restrictions had been placed on the correspondent's movement.

The president of the All India Newspaper Editors Conference, Mr Vishwa Bandhu Gupta, has in a statement expressed concern over the development.

In another development, New Delhi today conveyed to Sri Lanka its distress over certain remarks made by the Sri Lanka minister, Mr Anandatissa de Alwis, about the recent Rajya Sabha statement by the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Khurshid Alam Khan. An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that the deputy high commissioner of Sri Lanka was summoned to the Ministry of External Affairs and the Government of India's views were conveyed to him in the clearest term. He was told that Mr Khan had only presented the factual situation in Sri Lanka as it obtained today. It was emphasized that India had all along made constructive suggestions for resolving the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka. India had also taken several positive initiatives in this regard. It was disappointing that the Sri Lanka minister should have made observations which are not only unwarranted but appeared to a deliberate effort to whip up anti-India sentiments in Sri Lanka.

Parliament Condemns Arrest

*BK101031 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT
10 May 85*

[Text] In both houses of Parliament today, members from all sides strongly condemned the arrest of the PTI correspondent in Colombo yesterday. In the Rajya Sabha, members urged the government to take steps for immediate release of the correspondent. A member pointed out that no reason for the arrest has been given by the Sri Lankan Government. He said the alleged distortion of Sri Lankan President Mr Jayewardene's speech by the correspondent cannot be a reason for his arrest. Members wanted the government to make a statement on the subject.

Sharing the members' concern, the chairman, Mr Venkataraman, directed the government to make a statement in the house today on this question.

In the Lok Sabha, the speaker, Mr Bal Ram Jakhar, sharing the members' concern, said that he would verify the facts from the external affairs minister and allow a discussion on Monday. An opposition member said he had given a notice of an adjournment motion on the matter. A Congress-I member described the arrest as a mad action on the part of the Sri Lankan Government.

The Madras Union of Journalists have strongly condemned the arrest and detention of the PTI correspondent, Mr Krishan Anand, in Colombo. The union asked the Sri Lankan Government to release the correspondent unconditionally.

Correspondent Released on Bail

BK101257 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 10 May 85

[Text] The PTI correspondent in Colombo, Mr Krishan Anand, was released on bail today. He was asked not to leave Sri Lanka without the court's permission. The Indian High Commission in Colombo stood surety to Mr Anand. The case will be heard on the 24th of this month. As reported earlier, Mr Anand was arrested yesterday by the Sri Lanka police under the emergency regulations. Members in both houses of Parliament today strongly condemned the arrest of Mr Anand. In the Rajya Sabha, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Khurshid Alam Khan, said that it is a highly regrettable matter and the government is taking up the matter with the Sri Lankan authorities both in New Delhi and Colombo. He said our high commission is in constant touch with the External Affairs Ministry and all possible legal and other assistance is being provided to the correspondent.

Punjab Lok Dal Leader Shot Dead; Curfew Imposed

BK100740 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 10 May 85

[Text] The president of the Punjab Lok Dal and former member of Parliament, Mr Balbir Singh, was shot dead by two unidentified persons at Hoshiarpur this morning. According to an official spokesman, Mr Balbir Singh was going on his moped toward his farm when he was attacked by the assailants who came on a scooter. The spokesman said the assailants escaped after committing the crime. Meanwhile, the district authorities have imposed an indefinite curfew in Hoshiarpur town. Police have reached the spot and intensive efforts are on to arrest the culprits.

AFP on Shooting

HK100804 Hong Kong AFP in English 0748 GMT 10 May 85

[By Dilip Ganguly]

[Text] New Delhi, May 10 (AFP) — Sikh gunmen today shot dead a right-wing political party leader in Hoshiarpur in northern Punjab State, and authorities clamped a curfew on the city after

violence erupted to protest the killing, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said.

Balbir Singh, a former member of the Indian Parliament and president of the state unit of the Lok Dal (Peoples Party), was shot dead at Hoshiarpur by assassins who managed to escape, PTI said in a dispatch from the state capital Chandigarh, quoting official sources.

The Sikh gunmen fired automatic weapons from close range while Mr. Singh, a Hindu, was on a morning walk in his fields at 6:30 a.m. (0100 GMT), PTI said. Mr. Singh was hit with three shots in back and died on the spot, it said.

Authorities increased police deployment and imposed a curfew of indefinite duration on the city after enraged residents took to the streets to protest against the killing and set fire to some shops, PTI said.

Mr. Singh represented the United Janata Party in Parliament in 1977 when it came to power after defeating the late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's Congress (I) Party.

Mr. Singh was later elected to the Punjab State Assembly and became president of the Janata Party state unit, before joining the Lok Dal and becoming its state unit president.

The Lok Dal Party, led by former Prime Minister Charan Singh, is dominated by Hindu Jats — a martial sub-caste whose members generally live in Haryana, a state adjoining Punjab.

A spokesman for the Lok Dal Party here, K.C. Tyagi, described the killing as "brutal murder," adding "it is tragic that he fell victim to terrorists as he was always in favour of Hindu-Sikh unity."

He said the party's National President Charan Singh had called an emergency meeting to discuss the situation later today.

Charan Singh, who briefly became prime minister in 1979, is known to be opposed to the Sikh demand for Punjab's political autonomy.

He is one of the few opposition leaders who have been provided with a tight security cover by the government following fear that Sikh separatists may attempt to take his life, informed sources said.

Violence has returned to Punjab after a comparative lull since the virtual takeover of the Sikh political party Akali Dal's leadership by militants, analysts said.

Joginder Singh, father of the late Firebrand Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, in a surprise move on May 1 dissolved the two factions of the party and formed a nine-member ad hoc committee with himself as the chief. Since then four people, all Hindus, and a police officer have died in shootouts.

A section of India's 16 million Sikhs are campaigning for greater political autonomy in Punjab.

Meanwhile, the speaker (chairman) of the Lower House of Parliament, Bal Ram Jakhar, informed the house of Mr. Singh's assassination this morning.

The speaker, a Hindu from Punjab, described Mr. Singh as an able parliamentarian who worked for the welfare of the down-trodden and weaker sections of the society.

The house observed a couple of minutes' silence in memory of its former member.

Akali Meeting Canceled, Gurdaspur Curfew Lifted

*HK091623 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
9 May 85*

[Text] The delegate meeting called by the Akali Dal president, Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, on the 17th of this month has been canceled. This was disclosed in a release issued by the Dal in Amritsar today. The Akali leader, Mr Prakash Singh Badal, told newsmen in Chandigarh that the decision to cancel the meeting followed the exchange of views among Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, Mr G.S. Tohra, and other Akali leaders.

Meanwhile in Punjab, the curfew has been completely lifted in Gurdaspur town from noon today. An official spokesman said in Chandigarh that curfew in Dhariwal town will, however, continue till further orders as a precautionary measure. Earlier, curfew was relaxed for 3 hours from 0700 [0130 GMT] to 1000 this morning in Gurdaspur and Dhariwal towns to enable people to buy their necessities.

A meeting of various political parties, held in Amritsar today, strongly deplored violence in some areas of Punjab during the last few days. It urged the government to deal with extremists sternly. The meeting was attended by the representatives of the Congress-I, Communist Party of India, CPI-M, Bharatiya Janata Party, and the Janata.

Five car-borne terrorists were arrested after an encounter with the police near Goraya in Jullundur District early this morning. According to the police in Chandigarh, arms and ammunition, including five country-made pistols and a hand grenade, were recovered from the arrested terrorists.

Government To Monitor Sikh Weapons Training

HK090042 Hong Kong AFP in English 0007 GMT 9 May 85

[Text] New Delhi, May 8 (AFP) — The Indian Government today said it would closely monitor a decision by Sikh temples to spend more on weapons training for their communities, while authorities in Punjab clamped a 24-year curfew in one town in the troubled state and extended a similar measure in another district.

Federal Interior Minister Shankar Chavan told Parliament that the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC), which manages Sikh shrines, had made a budget outlay of 260,000 rupees (20,000 dollars) to give arms training to Sikhs at 11 temples over the next 12 months.

Mr. Chavan put last year's allocation at 35,000 rupees (less than 3,000 dollars). The authorities would keep a close watch in the matter, he said, and warned that action would be taken against those indulging in unlawful activities.

Meanwhile tension was still high in parts of Punjab, following the slaying by unidentified gunmen of three people in Dhariwal, Gurdaspur District, on Monday night and one person, an assistant police sub-inspector, at Bhatinda late last night. Authorities today clamped a 24-hour curfew in Gurdaspur town, the chief town in the district, and a 24-hour curfew enforced in Dhariwal was extended until tomorrow morning. At least 45 people have been detained for questioning in connection with disturbances that followed the shootings.

CPI-M Not in Favor of Sikh State or Tamil State

*HK070348 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
7 May 85*

[Text] The Communist Party of India-Marxist general secretary, Mr E.M.S. Namboodiripad, has said that his party is not in favor of a separate state either for Tamils in Sri Lanka or for the Sikhs in India. Mr Namboodiripad said in Madras that he welcomed the steps taken by the center to solve the Punjab issue. He appealed to the Akali leaders to reciprocate suitably.

Police, Army Patrolling Intensified in Gujarat

*HK091625 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
9 May 85*

[Excerpt] The situation in Ahmedabad is now under complete control after last night's disturbances in Kalupur and Dariapur areas. Giving this information in Gandhinagar this evening, the chief minister, Mr Madhavsingh Solanki, and the home minister, Mr Amarsingh Chaudhari, told newsmen that the government had taken all steps to ensure that such incidents are not repeated in Ahmedabad and in other sensitive areas of the state. Police and Army patrolling has been further intensified. Instructions have been given to round up antisocial elements.

Mr Chaudhari said that, if required, more troops will be mobilized in the city. He alleged that last night's disturbances were part of a conspiracy to create instability in the state.

2 Die in Renewed Violence

NC092116 Paris AFP in English 2057 GMT 9 May 85

[Text] New Delhi, May 9 (AFP) — Two more people died tonight in the western city of Ahmedabad in fresh caste violence, including a stabbing, as police opened fire to disperse rival mobs, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA reported. The agency said the killings, in the curfew-bound Kalupur area, took the death toll of three months of caste conflict, triggered by a move to increase educational and job possibilities for lower castes, to 86 people in Gujarat State.

Kalupur, where a building was set on fire, was one of three districts put under curfew today following renewed violence

overnight after a break of some 10 days. Gomtipur and Odhav were the other two.

Seven people, including a police sub-inspector, were killed and 20 wounded overnight as rival mobs fought pitched battles with firearms, burning torches, acid bombs and other missiles. The Army and police fired on the mobs killing six people and wounding 11 others and used teargas. Gujarat Interior Minister Amarsinh Chaudhary was quoted by PTI as saying that the Army fired only two rounds. Some houses and a dozen shops were burned in last night's violence.

Situation Updated

*BK100345 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
10 May 85*

[Text] The situation in Ahmedabad is under control barring a few stray incidents. The Army and the police continue to patrol the city. In Kalupur area, which is under indefinite curfew for the last 24 hours, police resorted to fire last night to disperse a violent crowd indulging in stone throwing and arson. No one was injured in the incident. In two other incidents in the curfew-free areas of the city, five private vehicles were set on fire. One person received burn injuries. Police have so far rounded 50 antisocial elements.

Meanwhile, curfew has been curtailed by 3 hours in the walled city area from today. It will be relaxed from 0500 in the morning to 2200 in the night. In Saraspur, curfew will be relaxed from 0500 in the morning to 1900 in the evening.

Sri Lanka Government Trying To Eliminate Tamils

*BK071537 Delhi NATIONAL HERALD in English
25 Apr 85 p 7*

[Editorial: "Sinister Design"]

[Text] The Sri Lankan government has embarked upon another sinister design to eliminate the Tamilian population in the island. The reported clashes between Muslims and Tamils in the Eastern Province are nothing but a planned attack on Tamilians by the state police commandos. It has already driven out over 40,000 Tamilians from their homes and caused heavy loss of innocent lives. This conspiracy was hatched rather in a crude manner. The Sri Lanka radio repeatedly broadcast the death of three Muslims in Mannar. But the state police started action in Amparai District, some 300 km away, describing it as a clash between Muslims and the Tamilians.

Even the Sri Lankan Minister for Home Affairs, Mr Devanayagam, categorically told President J.R. Jayewardene that the special task force of the police had instigated and armed the Sri Lankan Muslims. Mr M.A. Majid, Deputy Minister for Posts and Telegraphs, has also confirmed that there was no clash. Earlier, the Sri Lankan Government used its barbaric state police and army in gunning down the innocent Tamilian population in

the name of curbing terrorism. The presence of Israel's Moassad agents is being used with a motivated purpose. The import of the mischief is too clear. In a memorandum submitted to the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, an all-party delegation, led by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran, underlined the concern of the nation over the sudden and fresh exodus of refugees from Sri Lanka. The delegation has asked the Prime Minister to prevail upon the Sri Lankan government for the withdrawal of its army from Tamilian areas, stoppage of colonisation of Tamil areas by inducting Sinhalese and removing curbs placed on Tamilian fishermen.

The harsh reality emerging from these events more than establishes that the Sri Lankan government is adopting a course which inevitably would lead to disaster unless wiser counsels prevailed and the Tamilians are treated as equal citizens of the island, and are able to enjoy equal human rights.

USSR Considered for Oil Exploration Rights

*BK071639 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT
7 May 85*

[Text] The government is having a new approach to oil exploration and drilling in the country. Disclosing this in the Lok Sabha today, the petroleum minister, Mr Nawal Kishore Sharma, said the government is thinking of giving certain areas for finding oil resources to foreign companies and countries. In this context, he revealed that negotiations are being held with the Soviet Union. The government wants to assign some areas to them with a total responsibility of providing equipment, training and exploratory drilling.

Mr Sharma, however, added that commercial exploitation will be undertaken by the ONGAS [Oil and Natural Gas Commission] once oil is found.

In reply to the main question, Mr Sharma said that his ministry has projected an outlay of over 34,000 crore rupees for the seventh plan.

Government Moving To Dismiss Case Against Koran

*BK100955 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT
10 May 85*

[Text] The minister of state for law, Mr H.R. Bhargava, told the Lok Sabha that the center has deputed the attorney general to intervene in the writ petition before the Calcutta High Court seeking a ban on the Koran and have it dismissed straightaway. The matter was raised in the house during zero hour by some members from both sides of the house. The members expressed their concern and described it as a serious matter. The speaker, Mr Bal Ram Jakhar, shared the concern of the members and expressed the hope that good sense will prevail and such a thing will not happen in our country.

BHUTAN

India's Bhandari Meets King, Foreign Minister

*BK091030 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT
9 May 85*

[Text] The foreign secretary, Mr Romesh Bhandari, today called on the king of Bhutan, Jigme Singye Wangchuk. He apprised him of the initiative taken by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, to further improve India's relationship with its neighbors. Mr Bhandari also had a 90-minute meeting with the Bhutan foreign minister, Mr Dawa Tsering, and discussed the entire range of bilateral relations. Mr Dawa Tsering later said that the people of Bhutan are eagerly awaiting the visit of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to his country.

SARC Meeting Opens 10 May Without Sri Lanka Team

*BK100327 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
10 May 85*

[Text] The official-level meeting of the South Asian Regional Cooperation [SARC] countries begins in Thimpu today. Foreign secretaries of the member nations will review with current economic situation in the world and its effects on South Asian countries. The multilateral approach of cooperation to the mutual benefit of all member countries will also be taken up for discussion. The foreign secretaries' meeting will be followed by a 2-day meeting of foreign ministers of SARC countries.

Meanwhile, according to UNI, the Sri Lankan Government has decided to boycott the meeting.

Delhi on Sri Lanka Boycott

*BK100953 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT
10 May 85*

[Text] The foreign secretary level meeting of South Asian Regional Cooperation [SARC] countries began in Thimpu today with opening statements from six out of its seven member nations. The delegation from Sri Lanka did not arrive for the conference. The foreign secretary of Bhutan, Dr Podgyal, told the meeting that the Sri Lanka foreign secretary had sent a message saying that he had been recalled to Colombo for urgent consultations. He would, therefore, not be able to join the deliberations at Thimpu and would again get in touch with the Bhutan Government after reaching Colombo.

The All India Radio's special correspondent, Manohar Takru, reports that the foreign secretaries meeting went ahead with its scheduled agenda with the seats allotted to the Sri Lankan delegation remaining vacant. The Indian foreign secretary, Mr Romesh Bhandari, in his opening statement proposed the establishment of a formal South Asian Regional Cooperation organization with the council of ministers at its top for policy making. About the proposed summit of the South Asian nations, he suggested that it would issue a declaration of a political nature.

NEPAL

Australian Foreign Minister Begins Visit

*BK101223 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0830 GMT
10 May 85*

[Text] The foreign minister, Mr Hayden, has arrived in Nepal as part of his 19-day tour of South Asia. Mr Hayden is to spend 2 days in Nepal and will meet the nation's ruler, King Birendra.

Mr Hayden was met at the Katmandu airport by a deputy foreign minister, Pashu Pati Rana, who said Nepal was looking to develop close ties with Australia.

PAKISTAN

Spokesman Denies Fighting on Siachen Glacier

*BK091533 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT
9 May 85*

[Text] A Defense Ministry spokesman has strongly denied the report of fierce fighting between Pakistani and Indian forces in the Siachen Glacier area. Referring to recent press statements made by some Indian leaders, the spokesman said that there has been no fierce fighting of any kind in this area and hence the Indian claim — that the attempts of the Pakistani forces to make Indian forces abandon this area have been thwarted — is totally incorrect and baseless.

Finance Minister Reviews Economic Situation

*BK090741 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT
9 May 85*

[Text] Finance Minister Dr Mahbubul Haq has described the country's economic situation as very satisfactory, saying that the exports and remittances from abroad have stabilized.

He told newsmen in Rawalpindi yesterday that the foreign exchange reserve, which dropped to \$700 million during the last 8-9 months, is increasing and has now reached \$800 million.

He said that various proposals are being discussed with Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo, noting that the prime minister is very much aware of the commitment made by the elected government for the people's welfare.

The finance minister said that the government's main tasks are to ensure reasonable benefits for the majority of the people, curtail unnecessary expenditures, and further rationalize the taxation system.

Dr Mahbubul Haq added that the Aid Pakistan Consortium greatly appreciates the steps being taken by Pakistan to deregulate its economy.

He said that the basic objective of the deregulation policy is to provide benefits to the consumers by ending the middle [word indistinct] and irrational restrictions.

SRI LANKA

Minister on Refusal To Participate in SARC

HK100122 Hong Kong AFP in English 0059 GMT 10 May 85

[Text] New Delhi, May 9 (AFP) — A Sri Lankan Government delegation today refused to proceed to Bhutan to take part in the South Asian Regional Cooperation (SARC) meeting starting tomorrow, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA reported.

The news agency said in a dispatch from Thimpu, the capital of the Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan, that the delegation, headed by Foreign Secretary W.T. Jaisinghe, refused to board a flight from Calcutta. PTI said the move was presumably on last minute instructions from Colombo.

An earlier PTI dispatch from Colombo said Sri Lanka's Minister of State Anandatissa de Alwis had told reporters that Colombo was having second thoughts on attending the Thimpu meeting.

Mr. De Alwis was quoted as saying there was no point in participating in such a cooperative conference if Sri Lankan problems were distorted and totally incorrect statements were made in the national assemblies of neighbouring countries.

It was an apparent reference to a statement in the Indian Parliament by Khurshid Alam Khan, minister of state for foreign affairs, that Armed Forces should be withdrawn from the Sri Lankan north and east and Muslims in Sri Lanka should realise the Tamils were fighting for their cause too.

Meanwhile, the Indian Foreign Office today summoned Sri Lanka's deputy high commissioner and told him that Mr. De Alwis' remarks were "unwarranted and unfortunate" and represented a conscious effort to whip up anti-Indian sentiments in Sri Lanka.

Government To Reconsider SARC Membership

BK100535 Colombo International Service in Hindi 0130 GMT 10 May 85

[Text] Sri Lanka's Acting Foreign Minister Tyronne Fernando stated in Parliament yesterday that Sri Lanka has not decided to withdraw from the South Asian Regional Cooperation [SARC]. He was replying to a question raised by the Attanagalle member of Parliament, Lakshman Jayakody. Jayakody had asked why the government decided not to attend the SARC meeting due to be held in Bhutan on 13 May. He also asked why the government was pulling out of the SARC. Jayakody stated that the SARC is a nonpolitical organization and pulling out of it would be tantamount to withdrawing from the Nonaligned Movement or the United Nations. In his reply, Acting Minister Tyronne Fernando said that the Cabinet has decided to reconsider the question of participation in the SARC in the future. He said this step has been taken after a great deal of thought and discussion.

The acting foreign minister then placed before the Parliament the statement made by the Indian minister of state for external affairs, Khurshid Alam Khan, in the upper house of the Indian Parliament. Fernando said some remarks made by Khurshid Alam Khan constitute an unwarranted interference in the internal affairs of Sri Lanka. Fernando said the SARC is an organization in which India enjoys a large representation and Sri Lanka will not participate in a forum in which the biggest member country harasses others. However, he added that Sri Lanka appreciates the balanced attitude adopted by the Indian prime minister toward the Sri Lankan problem.

Delhi Reports 10 'Militants' Killed in Clash

BK091642 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 May 85

[Text] In Sri Lanka, security forces today killed 10 militants in an encounter at Kokkuvil south of Jaffna. One member of the security forces died, and two were injured. In a separate incident in the northern part, militants killed an Army major and wounded four other soldiers.

Army Officer, Soldier Killed

HK090700 Hong Kong AFP in English 0637 GMT 9 May 85

[Text] Colombo, May 9 (AFP) — An Army officer and a soldier died today in two encounters with militant Tamil separatists in northern Sri Lanka, security sources said.

The deaths brought the toll of servicemen killed since April 14 to 28, by the official count. It is not known how many separatists have died in the period of renewed violence in the campaign.

The officer, a major, was killed during a cordon and search operation in Velvettithurai at the northern tip of the Jaffna Peninsula when a grenade was thrown at him and exploded, the sources said.

The Army fired back and reports reaching Colombo said there were casualties among the militants but the figures were not immediately known.

In another incident farther south at Kokkavil in the province, armed separatists attacked an Army unit guarding a television transmitting station. The sources said the attackers used two vehicles with locally rigged armour plating but other details were not known.

The troops replied with rocket propelled grenades knocking out both vehicles, the sources said. One soldier was killed and the attackers were believed to have been killed or wounded.

A section of Sri Lanka's Tamils are seeking a separate state in the north and east, claiming discrimination at the hands of the nation's Sinhala majority.

Friday Prayers on Gujarat Massacre, Lebanon

*LD101229 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT
10 May 85*

[Text] Millions of our compatriots participated in the politico-religious Friday prayers ceremonies and observed this eternal Mohammadan tradition in the country's various cities today. The vast throngs of Tehran's monotheistic citizens, too, together with the families of Lebanese martyrs, were extensively represented at Tehran University and surrounding streets for the Friday prayers under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

In his first prayers sermon on Islam's social justice, he gave examples of Western plots to create discord among the various nations of the world. Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the massacre of Muslims by a class of Hindus in Gujarat Province in India, and said: The roots of this course of events lie not in India but rather lie with the British and other Westerners in India.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin warned the Indian Government that it is not in its interests to remain indifferent to this matter and thereby injure the sensibilities of a billion world Muslims!

In his second sermon, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin referred to the issue of the dispatch of a 7-man Arab delegation to London and said: They went to request Britain to try to have the Islamic Republic of Iran end the war. However, the British Government ostensibly under the pretext that a Palestinian representative was part of that delegation did not at first receive them, but later did. But the problem is that the Arab countries which dispatched this delegation still do not grasp the fact that Britain is no longer anybody special! If Britain were capable of solving any problems it would have solved the problems of its workers' strikes and the problem of Ireland! Even if the United States, the USSR, and their ilk were to unite, they could do nothing, let alone Britain. Countries such as Britain want the war to continue. They are worried about an Iranian victory and not about an end to the war.

Addressing the Arab regimes protecting Saddam, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin said: How could you possibly put up with the abjection whereby Britain said that it would not receive you so long as a Palestinian representative was in your midst! You should either act manfully as Syria and Libya have done and call Iraq an aggressor and condemn it; or if you are not that manful, then at least say nothing as Algeria and South Yemen are doing! The imam's representative to the Supreme Defense Council then referred to the shaky position of the Iraqi regime and said: The internal situation of Iraq is extremely critical. The mistake that Iraq made was attacking our cities and that was the last means it employed. The situation inside Iraq at present is shaky from every standpoint.

Referring to the enemies' immense efforts to force the Islamic Republic of Iran to compromise on the imposed war, the imam's representative to the Supreme Defense Council said: In the worst circumstances they did not succeed in dragging us into compromise, whereas today we are enjoying the best possible conditions.

Referring to the conditions proclaimed by the Islamic Republic of Iran, the imam's representative to the Supreme Defense Council emphasized: Saddam and a regime that has shed all that blood and perpetrated all those crimes cannot remain in power. When Saddam's downfall or punishment are raised, both have a single result, i.e., the toppling of the Saddam regime.

Referring to the new plots hatched by world arrogance and the foes of Islam to fragment Lebanon, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin then said: Islam's enemies wish to break up Lebanon, thereby giving a part to the Sunnites, another to the Shi'ites, a section to the Druze and another portion to the Christians. We hereby warn that Muslims should not be deceived by such plots! We await the day when Muslim Arab Lebanon will continue life with a government of the majority of its people!

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani then referred to the question of the U.S. economic blockade of Nicaragua. Emphasizing the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran will decisively back Nicaragua vis-a-vis the USA, he said: Iran smashed the toughest economic blockade and the Nicaraguan people, too, should be steadfast and resist the U.S. plot until they achieve victory.

In conclusion, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani read a sermon in Arabic addressed to our Muslim Arab sisters and brothers about the nature of the so-called Islamic conference of Baghdad.

Arabic Sermon

*GF101300 Tehran International Service in Arabic
1100 GMT 10 May 85*

[Arabic Friday sermon by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Tehran Friday imam ad interim and Majlis speaker, at Tehran University on 10 May — recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We all know that the 'Aflaqi Ba'th Party of Iraq was founded on infidelity and atheism. Everyone knows the party's anti-Islamic founder. Several times in history the Ba'th Party has demonstrated its hostility and opposition to Islam and the ulema. Its words, actions, and literature support atheism and disavow Islamic concepts — indeed, it takes pride in such beliefs.

This atheist party, following its historic and its unforgivable mistake — that is, its aggression against Islamic Iran and kindling the flames of an unjust war — has fallen into a trap from which there is no escape. Therefore, recently it has been planning to exploit Islam, religious scholars, and religious sanctities to save itself from an embarrassing situation. The leaders of the Ba'th Party, whose hands are soiled with the blood of the ulema of Islam, today are pretending to believe in Islam and are visiting the holy places. They invite some of those who pretend to be knowledgeable and spiritual and who don the garb of the ulema to Baghdad for a conference in the name of the ulema. They buy their consciences so as to declare their malicious stands through the voices of such people in the name of Islam. Through such people the Ba'thist atheists cast doubts on Muslims who love

Islam and accuse the unjustly treated Muslims of Iran, who are defending their legitimate rights and the rights of the Muslim people of Iraq, of wanting to continue the war.

The producers of the play of the so-called ulema conference are well-known and do not need to be identified. Their dirty past is well-known. Some of them were members of Savak, the diabolical intelligence service of the Shah's regime, who following the triumph of Islam in Iran fled and took refuge with the Shah's masters. Some of them were well-known spies as a result of their vile political leanings and their participation in the imperialist Bhamdun conference despite the late Ayatollah Khashfi al-Ghita's opposition to it. They subsequently served imperialist interests everywhere. Another group of this type have been holding a deviant meeting together with a group of duped and naive people who have been deceived by the garb and false slogans of the first group — or alternatively they have been working with them from the very beginning. They turn a blind eye to the crystal-clear Koranic verse: "If one group of believers should attack another, fight the aggressor until it returns to the path of God." They interpret the verse contrary to its meaning. Who does not know that it was the Iraqi Ba'thists who started this ill-fated war? Who does not know that the 'Aflaqis have violated all international norms during the war by attacking civilian centers, capturing civilians, using poisonous weapons, polluting the environment, undermining the security of shipping and air service, and committing other crimes. Who does not know that the 'Aflaqi Ba'thists are atheists while Iran is firmly committed to Islam and the Koran?

Does not the Koran, in the aforementioned verse, ask Muslims to fight the Ba'thist aggressor until he returns to the path of God and the right path? Does Iran want anything other than justice: Putting the aggressor on trial and punishing him, the payment of reparations, and the repatriation of homeless Iraqi Muslims. These are Iran's conditions. Are these demands un-Islamic or false? Is not the forgiving of the great crimes committed by these criminals contrary to the provisions of the Shari'a and incompatible with the interests of Islam?

Anyone who pauses and thinks a little of the answer to these questions will come to the clear conclusion that those who run the so-called Islamic conference in Baghdad are in fact betraying Islam and the Muslims and those who participated in it are either ignorant or tendentious and guilty. May God protect Muslims from the evil ulema and may God reward the loyal and Mojahedin ulema.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. "We have given you abundance; so pray to your Lord and sacrifice; surely he who hates you is the one who is cut off." [Koranic verses] Peace and God's mercy be upon you.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Cables Pakistan Majlis Chairman *LD090809 Tehran IRNA in English 0710 GMT 9 May 85*

[Text] Islamabad, May 9, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani congratulated the election of Fakr Imam as the chairman of Pakistan's Majlis-i-Shoora. The message was presented to the new chairman by Iran's ambassador to Pakistan,

Mir-Mahmud Musavi, in a meeting Wednesday during which bilateral ties as well as regional issues were discussed.

Musavi said that the strategic situation of the region and sensitiveness of the time necessitated both Iran and Pakistan to further expand friendly relations by relying on common religious and cultural views. Thanking for the congratulatory message from speaker Rafsanjani, Fakr Imam stressed the expansion of mutual ties.

Referring to the increase in the volume of trade between the two countries following the Islamic Revolution, Fakhar Imam called for further expansion of bilateral relations.

Majlis Approves Bill Despite Musavi Opposition *LD091501 Tehran IRNA in English 1425 GMT 9 May 85*

[Text] Tehran, May 9, IRNA — The Majlis Thursday [9 May] approved the outline of an accounting bill despite strong opposition from the prime minister. The Majlis also rescinded the powers of the defunct Shah and his relatives in the Armed Forces, which gave privileged positions to defunct royal family appointees.

In its first reading, the Majlis approved the outline of the bill for general accounting. Speaking against the bill, Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said all members of the Cabinet are totally opposed to it because it would expand bureaucracy.

"The implementation of this bill would be a catastrophe for the executive system of the country," Musavi added.

Musavi also complained that the Majlis deputies had not consulted with the government in preparing the bill.

The head of the accounting court and the representative of the accounting court committee of the Majlis, spoke in favour of the bill. The bill would now be discussed in detail in the Majlis committee.

Omani Sultan Receives Khamene'i Message *GF051500 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic* *1300 GMT 5 May 85*

["Text" of message received by Sultan Qabus from Iranian President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, in reply to a message of congratulations on the feast of Nowruz]

[Text] His Majesty, Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, the Sultan of Oman — Muscat.

I have gratefully received the congratulations message which you have sent on the occasion of the feast of Nowruz.

I wish to take this opportunity to offer to your majesty my warmest greetings and best wishes, hoping that the ties of friendship and solidarity toward the good of the Iranian and Omani peoples will increase.

Montazeri on Officials' Commitment to Islam

[Editorial Report] Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 1030 GMT on 7 May carries an 8-minute report on a 6 May meeting between Ayatollah Montazeri and various clergymen and members of the public on the occasion of the anniversary of the birth of the 12th imam and of "international day of the oppressed."

The report on Montazeri's speech deals with the importance of the role and the significance of the promised advent of the Imam Mahdi.

At the conclusion of the report on Montazeri's speech, he is cited as saying: "I have, on occasions, heard that some people consider being committed and hezbollahi as a prerequisite for selection, without considering competence and expertise. As a reaction to this belief, there are some people who consider the criterion to be expertise alone. Both schools of thought are wrong and remote from the logic of Islam and the revolution. The criterion for selection for any post of any responsibility should be commitment to Islam and the revolution and religious precepts together with expertise. Commitment without expertise and vice versa would be of no use. As commitment without expertise would not achieve the goals of the revolution, one should not overlook the danger arising from experts who are not committed and faithful to religion and to the revolution. Such people would eventually sell out the country and the revolution. Therefore, we should not let reaction and extremism befall us, both of which are harmful to the country and to the revolution."

Montazeri is then reported to have advised the officials to look after the public and care for them.

Communique on Renewed Iraqi Chemical Attacks

LD091606 Tehran IRNA in English 1555 GMT 9 May 85

[Text] Tehran, May 9, IRNA — The Iraqi forces have renewed chemical attacks against Iran's Islamic forces, the Armed Forces Joint Staff said in its communique today.

Shells containing deadly chemicals were fired on the positions of the Islamic forces in one of the southern fronts at 11:25 pm (19:55 GMT) Tuesday and 3 pm (11:30 GMT) Wednesday.

The U.N. Security Council issued a statement last month strongly condemning the use of chemical weapons against Iranian troops.

In war action, the communique said a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded in the exchange of fire across the Arvand River Wednesday.

At least five Iraqi light and heavy armament positions and observation posts were also destroyed in this front.

In other southern fronts, artillery duels were more intense in the Nahr-Anbar and Hoseyniyeh fronts. Enemy forces sustained losses in the central fronts of Ilam and Bakhtaran, and in the northern fronts, the Islamic forces opened fire on enemy vehicles and bases, inflicting casualties and losses.

Afghan Rebels 'Destroyed' Government Garrison

LD091919 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 May 85

[Text] A garrison of the Army of the Afghan regime, near Chavcharan region was totally destroyed during an attack by Afghan Muslim revolutionaries.

The Central News Unit, quoting Afghan Muslim sources adds: During this engagement seven of the Afghan Army personnel were killed and three were captured by the revolutionaries, following the destruction of this garrison.

During this attack a tank belonging to the government forces was set on fire and a quantity of ammunition and some weapons were taken as booty by the Muslim revolutionaries.

Opposition Leader in France Comments on Regime

Khomeyni Controls Islamic Jihad

PA092022 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1323 GMT 9 May 85

[By Esther Borrell]

[Text] Auvers-Sur-Oise (France), 9 May (EFE) — The Ayatollah Khomeyni decides and controls all terrorist actions carried out by the Islamic Jihad from Madrid to Beirut, Iranian opposition leader Mas'ud Rajavi has told EFE.

The Islamic Jihad is not composed of anything but agents of the Tehran regime, the president of the Iranian National Resistance Council for Liberty and Independence [CNR] stated.

According to the opposition leader, who is also chief of the Movement of the Mojahadin of the peoples of Iran, the decisions on these attacks are controlled by Khomeyni in person. The organization and preparation of the attacks, the leader continued, are directed by the Iranian Government at the highest level.

There are two sections in Tehran especially in charge of the terrorist actions: One is the Information Section of the Central Office of the Revolutionary Guards and the other is an office under the direct responsibility of the prime minister, Rajavi stated.

Regarding the recent attack on a Madrid restaurant, the Iranian opposition leader voiced his conviction that it had been an action carried out by the Khomeynist agents, which claimed credit for the attack under the name of the Islamic Jihad. Nonetheless, he claimed not to have sufficient information in this regard to give more details.

Khomeyni continues his policy to export terrorism, which he labels exportation of the revolution, the leader added. His objective is to arouse fear and make the Western world continue to have relations with him, Rajavi stated. According to the Iranian opposition leader, the actions by Tehran against France or French interests abroad are aimed at preventing the support of Paris for Iraq in the war against Iran.

Rajavi recalled the existence of terrorist training camps on Iranian territory. Khomeyni is also trying to use foreign terrorists, mostly Arabs, he added.

Regarding last year's arrest of Iranian terrorists in Spain, Mas'ud Rajavi said that on that occasion they found weapons with which the Khomeyni agents planned to attack his residence in Auvers-Sur-Oise here in France.

The leader underlined that security in this place is very important for the Mojahadin and, for the time being, Khomeyni has not been able to do anything, although he continues to channel important funds for this purpose.

He noted: Our security depends on the French Government. We have agreed with the authorities of this country that we will not do anything that does not conform to French laws.

According to sources close to Rajavi, approximately 10 French gendarmes guard the vicinity of the leader's residence in Auvers.

The sacred right of asylum is a right recognized by the French Constitution and we do not want to create any problems for the inhabitants of this country or the French Government, the Iranian opposition leader in exile concluded.

Rajavi on Elections, Opposition

PA092313 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1337 GMT 9 May 85

[By Esther Borrell]

[Text] Auvers-Sur-Oise (France), 9 May (EFE) — The National Resistance Council for Liberty and Independence of Iran (CNR) will request a boycott of the next presidential elections in Iran that are scheduled for June or July, according to CNR President Mas'ud Rajavi in statements to EFE.

All of the elections organized by the regime in Tehran are illegitimate.

We have boycotted the 1984 legislative elections and we will also request the people's abstention during the presidential elections, said the Iranian opposition leader.

Moreover, Khomeyni does not need the people's participation because he will declare a positive balance, with a 90 percent participation rate, he said. We feel that those who present their candidacies are betraying the nation, Rajavi asserted.

According to him, Khomeyni's religious fascist dictatorship is worse than any dictatorship, including that of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi who was deposed in February 1979 by the Islamic Revolution led by the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni.

Referring to the National Liberation Movement of Iran (MLI, internal opposition) which is led by Mehdi Bazargan, the CNR president said that the term "legal opposition" is a joke because it does not really exist.

Khomeyni has killed or sent away all of his real opponents, he pointed out, and recalled that he was also turned away when he presented his candidacy for the 1980 presidential election: 1 year after the shah was deposed.

The regime has no other alternative among its members and events have proven that we cannot believe in Khomeyni's alleged reforms, he added.

Referring to the rumors regarding Khomeyni's health, Mas'ud Rajavi said he is 85 years old and suffers several grave illnesses; he added that several Western doctors, including some Spaniards, are his physicians and they are well aware of the situation.

He continued: Nevertheless, we would prefer that he died of natural causes. We want him to be alive to answer for his crimes. However, it is also true that Khomeyni's death would represent the death of that regime, he added. Rajavi said he is fully convinced that Khomeyni's regime cannot last much longer.

He said: Following Khomeyni's ousting and according to the CNR's schedule, a 6-month provisional government would be comprised under my responsibility. The government's mission would be to prepare free elections and comprise a legislative assembly, he said.

The CNR leader said he has no links to former members of the shah's regime, although some of them are also refugees in France. Iran will never return to a monarch; the Pahlavi's dynasty was deeply hated by the people, he asserted.

He recognized that there were some divergencies with former Iranian President Abol Hasan Bani Sadr since he began, in 1984, to dissent with the CNR's peace policy.

We helped Bani Sadr escape from Iran in 1981 when he was being threatened and then we accepted him as a personality but not as a political force, Rajavi explained. We have been separated from him for many months, he asserted.

I would have preferred that the Bani Sadr who supported Khomeyni in the past could adapt himself to the democratic Iran of the future. I am sorry that is not so, Mas'ud Rajavi concluded.

Rajavi on Unrest, Protests

PA100121 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1253 GMT 9 May 85

[By Esther Borrell]

[Text] Auvers-Sur-Oise (France), 9 May (EFE) — The Iranian people's demonstrations against the war with Iraq are spreading throughout Iran [words indistinct] the end of Khomeyni's regime, according to Iranian resistance leader Mas'ud Rajavi in statements to EFE.

For the last 2 weeks, approximately 80 marches in favor of peace were carried out in the main Iranian cities with the participation of thousands of persons, according to the president of the National Resistance Council for Liberty and Independence (CNR) who has been a refugee in France since 1981.

We have urged the people to carry out actions against the regime: demonstrations and the sabotage of airplanes and military vehicles. According to our reports, approximately 900 people were arrested during these last days, said Rajavi.

He stressed that the protests spread to the military forces, the main bases in the country, such as the air base at Esfahan and the port of Bandar-e Abbas, even among the military forces on the war front.

The legitimate movement in favor of peace has gathered so much strength that it has reached the core of Khomeyni's regime, said the opposition leader when referring to statements recently issued against the war by personalities close to the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni.

Rajavi continued: Despite this Khomeyni wants to continue the war because it permits him to cover up the internal war in Iran and the repression of the resistance.

Precisely for this reason, Khomeyni is the only one who wants to maintain this situation. Iraq wants peace, he added.

Mas'ud Rajavi, leader of the People's Mojahedin Movement (Islamic left) and president of the Iranian CNR, (an organization which comprises the movements which oppose Khomeyni), recalled that in 1983 he signed — at his residence-exile in Auvers-Sur-Oise (close to Paris) — a joint peace communique with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz.

Following this agreement with Bagdad, the CNR prepared a peace plan that, according to the Iranian leader, was advocated by the European Council, the European Parliament, many parties and personalities, and the Socialist International (SI).

Mas'ud Rajavi said: We have continued our contacts with Iraq and recently asked them to stop bombing the cities, an action that we have condemned on each side. Unfortunately, I am convinced that these bombings will continue, he added.

Referring to external interests behind the Iran-Iraq war, the CNR president said that the war represents good trade. More than 20 countries have sold or are selling weapons to Tehran; and Israel is one of the main ones, said Rajavi.

He said: I can also mention Syria, Libya, the DPRK, ROK, and FRG among the countries sending military material to Iran. He also said that Khomeyni is also outfitting himself in the arms-trafficking markets. Some ships en route to Iran were loaded with weapons from those markets in Spanish ports; the contacts with the traffickers also took place on Spanish territory, added Rajavi, refusing to give more details.

According to the Iranian opposition leader, Khomeyni's regime has only 1 year left, 2 at the most. Khomeyni cannot win another war against Iraq even though the regime is setting aside 80 percent of its budget for the war and repression, he added.

These 4 years of war have resulted in more than 1 million dead and wounded, 2 to 3 million refugees, and hundreds of millions of dollars in material damages in Iran, Rajavi stressed.

He continued: According to official figures admitted by the regime, the country's production capacity from 1979 to 1985 is below 83 percent, half the population is on strike, and the only source of income is the country's oil.

Given this catastrophic situation, Mas'ud Rajavi said that he is fully convinced that the pressure exerted by the people and their wish to attain peace will eradicate Khomeyni's religious fascism. The first signs of the regime's disruption have appeared; the end is near, he concluded.

Radio Nejat-e Iran on 'Violent' Clash in Tehran
GF091802 (Clandestine) Radio Nejat-e Iran in Persian
 1630 GMT 9 May 85

[Text] Let us first of all report on an incident that took place in Eshratyab Square the night before last.

Eshratyab Square in Tehran was the scene of one of the most violent clashes during recent months. According to a Radio Nejat-e Iran correspondent in Tehran, from 0030 the night before last [2100 GMT on 7 May] the sounds of gunfire were heard coming from the mobilization center in Eshratyab Square in Tehran. This drew the attention of residents in the area.

The sounds of gunfire and clashes became most intense after about 0200, after which a huge explosion took place within the mobilization center. Fire, smoke, and flames were seen emerging from several bedroom windows in Eshratyab Square and could be seen from several points in the capital.

According to our correspondent, during this commotion a Revolution Guards' strike force arrived at the locality and closed all roads leading to the square on streets from the east, west, and south. They stopped all traffic and prevented automobiles from approaching Eshratyab Square.

Our correspondent adds that up till 0500 when the fire was finally brought under control, the sounds of ambulance sirens could be heard as the injured were moved to hospitals.

The Eshratyab incident is the result of deep differences existing between the mobilized personnel and their commanders. The real author behind the situation is Mohammad 'Ali Rahmani, who is in charge of the mobilization program.

He has been responsible for the widespread purges among the mobilized personnel. During the past weeks 1,800 mobilized personnel in three sectors of Tehran, 960 in Lorestan, 120 such elements in Ahvaz, 400 mobilized personnel in Gilan and Mazandaran, and 80 others in Tabriz have been purged under orders from Rahmani.

In this purge, 600 mobilized persons from Dezful mutinied with arms and equipment and set ablaze the mobilization center in Dezful.

The report concludes: During the Eshratyab incident, 220 machineguns, 300 side arms, and one truck were removed from the mobilization center and taken to an unknown destination.

Free Voice of Iran on Antiregime Demonstrations
GF091814 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian
1500 GMT 9 May 85

[Text] During the past month, the people of Tehran and provincial towns have held 75 demonstrations against the clerical government of Khomeyni. In Tehran, local demonstrations during the past month started with thousands of citizens spilling onto 9th Aban Avenue in the southern part of the capital, shouting slogans against the Khomeyni regime and the war. Some 40 such demonstrations later took place in various localities of Tehran, some of which resulted in armed clashes. In the Tehran clashes, more than 2,500 persons have been arrested, 3 persons have been killed, and 12 wounded. During the demonstrations people have

shouted "Death to Khomeyni," "Death to war," and "Long live peace".

Meanwhile, the regime's efforts to put down the demonstrations with the help of whip-carrying hezbollahis and the use of street hoodlums have failed. The people have succeeded in marking the mercenary hezbollahis groups and striking at them.

There have been 35 similar demonstrations against the Khomeyni regime and the war in the provincial towns of Kermanshah, Bandar-e Pahlavi, Mashhad, Brojerd, Ahvaz, Esfahan, Hamadan, Gorgan, and Rasht.